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Seventy-Seven Years of Editorial Freedom

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'U'-Too Affair: The

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First of a Two-Part Series

Some time ago a "transient scientist" from a country which "does not maintain normal diplomatic relations with the United States" came to see Stanley Seashore, Assistant Director of the Institute for Social Research.

The visitor was clearly of interest to the United States government.

For shortly before the visit the Central Intelligence Agency dropped by to see Seashore and asked him to find out whether the scientist "was doing anything that might arouse interest." In addition they asked Seashore to evaluate the visitor's capabilities and attempt to determine in what areas he was doing research.

Did Seashore oblige?

"Citizens have an obligation to be of help to government agencies if they are asked," he explains. When the CIA agents came back to find out about the "transient scientist", Seashore talked with them.

But because he "didn't really have anything useful to tell them," there was no significant interchange of information.

Although Seashore declines to tell who his visitor was, when he came, or what he was doing, he does concede that he has been contacted for various forms of information by the CIA three times in the past five years.

He is not alone. A Daily investigation shows that:

- There have been at least six contacts between CIA agents and four ISR personnel in recent years, several resulting in "some interchange of information."

- CIA activity in the ISR is becoming a significant problem, and the institute's executive committee is considering placing restrictions on contacts between ISR personnel and the CIA.

- Four University professors met with six CIA agents during 1966 to discuss the possibility of using University faculty members and facilities to train CIA agents.

CIA activity in the ISR has been well documented by The Daily's investigation. One high ISR official has admitted that several contacts were productive for the

CIA Comes to Campus

CIA but says that the significance of information provided was minimal.

"Many of the contacts were never consummated," that is they involved personnel who rebuffed the CIA or refused to meet with a CIA agent, explains Prof. Arnold Tannebaum of the psychology department, who is a program director in the ISR's Survey Research Center.

"I have not made a careful study of CIA contacts in the ISR, but I know of six such contacts. I assume there have been more," Tannebaum said.

All these contacts were initiated directly by agents of the CIA. The information requested of ISR personnel falls into four main categories, according to Tannebaum:

- Obtaining information from researchers concerning their observations abroad.

- Obtaining information about foreign visitors to the ISR.

- Eliciting cooperation to observe and report in the future about a particular foreign visitor.

- Obtaining information about former ISR employees.

But what specific kind of information can ISR personnel provide the CIA? An example cited by an ISR official involved the junta in Greece which overthrew Prime Minister George Papandreu last year. The military take-over was allegedly aided by the CIA, he explained.

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professor at the University of California and

many academic personnel in the United States knew him. Their knowledge would be invaluable to the CIA in planning a coup, he explained.

"These contacts are potentially harmful to the ISR," Tannebaum explains. "I think that we should carefully think through a policy designed to minimize but not eliminate these contacts," he said.

The policy ought not to be anti-CIA, he explained, but "it ought to recognize the danger to the institute of becoming an instrument of the CIA."

"This danger is likely to increase as our international contacts grow and as our international activities become more organized and salient," he explained.

CIA Seeks 'Help' From 'U' Faculty

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Tannebaum outlined the following dangers involved in CIA-ISR contacts:

—"They may lead to loss of faith in ISR personnel by foreign social scientists.

—CIA contacts place ISR personnel in a difficult and conflicting position. They may even feel inhibited about talking to our own colleagues about experiences abroad and about foreign personalities if they know that their colleagues may be queried by agents of the CIA.

—ISR travelers may be placing themselves and perhaps their foreign colleagues in some jeopardy when they are abroad in certain countries if the security police there have reason to believe they are collaborating with the CIA."

Tannebaum has suggested that a policy statement by the Institute ought to preclude "doing research for the CIA and providing the CIA with information about our experiences abroad and our knowledge of foreign or domestic personalities."

However, he does not "see how the ISR can avoid providing the CIA with information about institute personnel past or present who may be seeking employment in the CIA."

A detailed policy statement will be formulated by the ISR shortly, informed sources indicate.

The CIA also shows interest in various foreign area study programs of the University. In the spring of 1966 it invited a number of leaders of these programs to lunch at the Rubaiyat restaurant in downtown Ann Arbor.

Most declined the invitation, but four went along. Several were genuinely interested, but one professor "went along because I was really curious about what these people were up to."

"The government asks you about something and you feel obligated to at least attend," the professor explained. "They made it seem like a casual, even common occurrence. Something that happens every day."

Prof. Alexander Eckstein of the economics department says he was at the meeting but denies working for the CIA at any time. "I have been very very careful about this matter," he said.

However, Eckstein acknowledges that he has had "academic discussions" with individuals in

his field that he knew formerly in the academic community who "are presently working for the CIA."

"Individuals should not be penalized if they want to work for the CIA," Eckstein said.

This meeting was apparently not a simple isolated effort. According to one professor who attended the CIA luncheon, the group of agents were a "loving committee that went from university to university setting up similar contacts."

But what could this group of prominent University professors offer the vast CIA intelligence network? And why was this government agency concerned with the University? After all, the CIA was created for exclusively foreign intelligence work.

The answers to these questions were clear soon after the luncheon meeting began. "Broad hints" were thrown out concerning CIA interest in the University, explains the professor.

The agents carefully hinted that they wanted to place certain of their personnel in a sort of special graduate program with each of the professors.

"They expressed particular interest in China-Soviet studies, African studies, and the middle east," the professor explained.

"But if that was all they were after, they could have found out what they wanted to know through our catalogues. They certainly must be able to read."

Clearly, the agents had more on their mind than reading course syllabi. They hinted that "if we were willing to cooperate, they would send their 'students' here. In return it was understood CIA money would be provided to help these professors in their work."

The professor explained that at the luncheon each participant was paired up with a CIA representative. "They were very conservative politically and made it clear they wanted people with the right political ideas as they saw them," the professor explained. "I think I made it pretty clear to them how I felt."

The two professors who admit to attending the meeting were not contacted again by the CIA in a follow-up to the luncheon. It is not known if the same is true of the other two faculty members who attended. Their names are a

TOMORROW:

The CIA and the Students